

MA'S MASTERPIECE.



Sum years ago there cum ter town, a-teachin' folks ter paint, A feller with sum colors an' a picter of a salar. (A sample of the kind o' work ter be perfoiced by each O' the favored individuals he undertook ter teach.) He cum ter us a-canvasin', an' ma, she tumbled quick, He looked so sorter French-like an' talked so glib an' slick, She bought o' him sum Paris paints, an' hedn't worked a week Afore she got ter talkin' 'bout 'feelin' an' 'teckneck.' An' she brought us hum a picter, as I guess they allus does— Her 'masterpiece,' she called it, an' I calkerlate it was.

I dunno what the subject was, it didn't hev no name, But 'twas 'bout one-quarter picter an' the other three was fame. An' we hung it in the settin' room, conspicuous to all Admirin' acquaintances who happened in ter call, Wall, pa, o' course he figgered ma was 'bout the best on earth, An' he uster ask 'er reglar what she thought the thing was worth, An' it really was amusin' ter observe the modest way That ma wud turn an' answer him, with 'Fifty dollars, say?' An' pa wud settle back an' smile, an' squint ter beat the cars, A-takin' in the beauties o' that masterpiece o' ma's.

A year ago we pulled up stakes an' auctioned everything, An' we figgered quite extensive what that masterpiece wud bring, Pa didn't want ter let it go, but ma said times was hard, So we put it with the other goods piled up around the yard, The time they was a-sellin' it I climbed the fence ter see Who it was that got the picter an' how much the price wud be, An' I tells yer, I cum mighty nigh a-fallin' off the fence When I heard the feller holler, 'Goin'—gone, fer fifteen cents!' But he hedn't fairly sorted out another bargain, when Pa hustled to the front an' bought ter picter back again.

Wall, ma, o' course she see the joke was mostly all on her; But pa, he 'lowed sech incidents was likely ter occur, He sed a prophet never yet was worth a straw ter hum An' he 'lowed the greatest picters allus brought the smallest sum, Fer nothin' most, when it was new, an' thousands when 'twas old, An' added, sorter spunky-like, thet now he knew fer sure 'Twas a masterpiece, an' no mistake, an' eighteen carat pure! So when we left the farm behind, an' druv ter take ter cars, The only thing pa carried was that masterpiece of ma's. —William Cary Duncan, in Farm and Home.

OUR VALUABLE FORESTS AND THE INDUSTRIES TO WHICH THEY GIVE RISE.

NEXT to agriculture the forest industries stand in the order of importance to the people of the United States. The list of these industries, given by Ernest Bruncken in North American Forests and Forestry, is too long to transcribe in full, but a few of the forest products may be mentioned: Fencing material of all kinds, telegraph poles, long logs for piles under the foundations of buildings, railroad ties, hop poles, bean poles, Christmas trees. These and various other products of the woods have the peculiarity that even in this age of machinery they are chiefly supplied by the labor of individuals armed simply with ax and hand-saw.

Charcoal-making is a forest industry which employs not a little capital and a great many workmen. The making of wood alcohol and other products of dry distillation is an increasing business. The ancient industry of making pitch and the like is flourishing in many parts of the Southern pine regions, as is the making of turpentine, which is produced mostly from the long-leaved pine of the South.

Modern industrial civilization has added a number of entirely new forms of utilizing forest products. One of these is the making of excelsior, the narrow strips of shavings which everybody now knows as a packing material. The making of boxes of all kinds has opened a market for many kinds of wood, such as poplar, which was formerly considered quite worthless. The most astonishing case of the rise of a new industry is the making of wood pulp for paper, which was quite in its infancy twenty years ago, but now produces goods of the value of more than a hundred million dollars annually.

A very important product of forest industry is bark for tanning purposes. By far the most important tree of this kind in North America is the hemlock. The hemlock industry furnishes a striking illustration of how the American forests have been drawn into the circle of the world's commerce. One of the centers of tan-bark production is the eastern portion of central and northern Wisconsin. Within a few years large tanneries have been set up in the very midst of the forest, and raw hides are brought there from Argentina to be treated with the bark of the trees growing near by. The most primitive of all forest industries still remains one of the most important of all. That is the cutting and consumption of fire-wood. For instance, the management of the celebrated Biltmore forest in North Carolina has, during recent years, made enough out of the sale of fire-wood to pay the considerable expense of managing that property according to sylvicultural methods.

ONCE A SLAVE.

He Is Now a Respected Judge in the State of Wisconsin.

The current discussion over the measure of political rights which should be accorded to the negro gives a special significance to the election to a judgeship in Wisconsin of a colored man, the first instance of the kind, it is said, in the history of the State. The position might be more correctly defined as that of a justice of the peace, a judicial office requiring no legal training, but a highly important one, nevertheless, for justices' courts come nearer to the people than any other judicial bodies, and where presided over by the right kind of men are a tremendous influence for law and order. The chief requirements for a presiding magistrate in one of these courts are good common sense, a well-balanced judgment, and an impartial mind. Such are said to be the qualifications of J. C. Perkins, who a few weeks ago was elected judge of the local court in the town of Shelby, near the city of La Crosse, Wis. Judge Perkins was born in slavery in 1840, five miles from Holly, Miss., and at the outbreak of the war went into the Confederate army as the servant of Maj. Perkins, whose name he assumed. In 1863 he joined the Union army and was in the battles of Shiloh, Gunter and Nashville, besides many minor skirmishes. Judge Perkins went to Chicago at the close of the war and later opened a barber shop in Galena, Ill. Later he removed to Milwaukee and entered the Turkish bath business. He met Gen. Grant during the war, and when President Roosevelt visited La Crosse, April 4, he was the



J. C. PERKINS.

only colored man to shake his hand, presenting him also with a bouquet of American beauty roses on behalf of the colored population of Western Wisconsin.

An Air-Tight Fit.
Mrs. Jennings and her city cousin were exchanging news of their old school friends. "How about Lucy Morse?" asked the cousin. "Has she kept on growing fatter and fatter?" "Well, all I'll say is this," said Mrs. Jennings. "Annie Fall told me last year that when Lucy sent home from Nashua, where she was nursing her uncle, to have a silk waist made, Annie realized she hadn't got any money; and then she remembered that the last time Lucy was there she stood up by the big air-tight stove, and Annie remarked (to herself) the resemblance between 'em. And she took the measure of that air-tight, and cut in a mite for the waist line—'bout as much as a knife marks warm molasses candy—and made the waist accordingly. I sent it on, and Lucy wrote back it was an elegant fit."

An Unanswered Query.
"Why do you stop here?"
"I know the landlord."
"You are lucky."
"Am I?"
"Yes. But how about the landlord."
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Automobile Perils.
"Yes, our 'Black Spook' was demolished by running into a barn."
"Then I suppose you had to walk?"
"No, we had to run. The farmer came after us with a pitchfork and a bulldog."—Philadelphia Record.

The Favorite.
Though Gibson girls and Wenzel girls attract by charms and airs, Most fellows seem to want a girl Whose name will change to theirs.
—New York Times.

One way to make horses fast is to cut off the food supply.



The main objection to the snap-shot photographer is that he is too candid. He never gives his subject a chance to look pleasant.

Mr. Carnegie has discovered that it requires as much discernment to give money away judiciously as it does to amass it.

Heretofore Inca traditions led scientists to believe that Peruvian civilization existed only a few centuries before the coming of the Spaniards. The work of Dr. Uhle is said to have established the fact that a great civilization flourished in Peru 2,000 years earlier.

Since the introduction of the Bertillon system in France 20,000 persons who have committed crimes and who were concealing their identity have, by means of the system, been identified and brought to justice, and among these not one mistake is known to have been made.

In the election of 1892 there were in England and Wales 36,109 illiterates; in Scotland, 4,677; in Ireland, 84,919. At the 1895 elections the figures were: illiterates in England, 28,521; Scotland, 4,662; Ireland, 40,357.

That the low-lying territory of the Mississippi should at times be overflowed is not surprising if one considers that the "Father of Waters" draws supplies from twenty-eight States, draining one-third of the area of the United States.

The Milwaukee Sentinel remarks that the automobile has come to stay and should be welcomed as a modern improvement of great possibilities, both of pleasure and usefulness. But it is obviously not a machine to be entrusted to the guidance of the thoughtless and the featherbrained, who pursue their own pleasure regardless of the comfort and safety of other people.

Canada is about to become the chief source of the world's supply of arsenic. The arsenic which for many years baffled the gold miners of Hastings county, Ontario, in their efforts to extract the precious metal from its matrix, has become the more profitable of the two minerals. The strange turn of the wheel of fortune has been caused by the virtual exhaustion of the former chief source of supply of arsenic in Germany and England, together with the superior quality and purity of the Canadian product.

The Pall Mall Magazine thinks that life would become intolerable if girls could not be on frank and uncoquettish terms with men of their own age, or some years their seniors. The idea that because two young people may have a great deal in common they must also be in love is happily dying out. No one is hurt, no one is compromised, when a friendship does not lead to marriage.

One definite advantage in substituting khaki for blue cloth uniforms for the army in the tropics and in summer was not considered when the change was discussed in the War Department, the anopheles mosquito not having at that time been exhaustively studied. The malaria-breeding mosquitoes will not light upon substances having a yellow color, but swarm about blue fabrics.

Sir Clements Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society, strongly deprecates the costly expeditions which the various nations sent out in rivalry without any system of co-operation. He considers future North Pole expeditions as worthless, useless for geographical purposes; useless from the naturalists point of view.

That the motorist cannot help reckless driving was maintained by a French savant in a recent meeting of scientists in Paris. The furor steals on them. In setting out they intend to go at a moderate pace, but as they warm to the work they must rush on faster and faster. The flying landscape through which they tear forward produces the kind of giddiness which Arabs say takes hold of them in the fantasia. In this state motorists would run down those nearest and dearest to them as unhesitatingly as though they were so many animals.

In an article on irrigation in the Year Book of the Department of Agriculture, Edward A. Beale, of the Weather Bureau, says that there are more than seven million acres of irrigated lands in the United States. The total cost of the irrigation systems of the country is \$64,289,601, and the value of the irrigated crops for the single year of 1899 was \$34,433,438, or 30 per cent. greater than the cost of the irrigation plants. The number of irrigators was 102,819, which gives nearly seventy-one acres to the farm.

According to the Denver Republican the current of immigration to the United States is unusually strong, but a comparison shows that in proportion to the population it is not so great as that into Canada. Although we are receiving new people at the rate of about eight hundred thousand a year, this represents only about one per cent. of our population, whereas at the present rate the immigration into Canada will amount to two per cent. of the population of that country in the course of a year.

Experiments are now being made by the French in their submarine boats with a material called "oxylythe," a new chemical compound which liberates oxygen freely when mixed with water. This not only purifies the air, but it burns up all animal impurities. In addition, experiments are being made with a new motor to which oxylythe furnishes the fuel. If this proves successful—and the prospect is at present favorable—the motor will do for both surface and under-water running. Much more powerful machinery can be installed, and a large part of the heavy electric batteries can be removed.

Taine's Advice to His Sisters.

When Taine was a professor at Nerves he ended a letter to his mother with the following "few words" to his sisters:

"Do not concern yourselves about your acquaintance with all kinds of technical details and with some technicalities in geography, physics, etc., which are repeated by the accomplished parrots in boarding schools. Merely learn the orthography, the arithmetic, the essential part of geography. Demand for the rest upon your reading, conversation and reflection. The end of education is to open the mind, to acquire ideas and to accustom one's self to search for them. Studies are but the means. A woman has not to pass an examination before coming out; she is not questioned at a party about a date or a chemical solution. Provided that she has ideas about things in general, that she can follow a conversation on any subject, that her judgment is sufficiently free and wide to hold her own on questions of morality, of conduct and religion which are discussed in her presence, she knows quite enough, and the wisest man can enjoy conversing with her. A conversation which is an exchange of ideas pointedly expressed is perhaps the greatest pleasure which can be enjoyed, and from the time we begin to think we have it without much instruction. The only examination a woman must pass concerns dress, deportment, dancing and music, and I see that you will succeed in it satisfactorily."—London Athenaeum.

An Idle Match.

A man was traveling, not long ago, in the compartment of a London train. At one of the stations, says Chums, a German entered the carriage and took the seat opposite the Englishman.

When the train had started, the German, seeing the other's cigar, boldly asked for one.

Although astonished at the request, the Englishman nevertheless pulled out his case and handed it to the stranger.

The German lighted the cigar, took a few puffs, and beaming affably through his spectacles, said:

"I would not have doubted you, but I had a match in mine tonight, and I did not know what to do with it."

Dog Days Are Come.

It seems probable that before long the dogs as well as the daughters of rich and fashionable folk will be sent to Paris to finish their education. A school for dogs has been established there. Many society women already employ a maid or a man as a dog attendant, whose duty it is to train and to accompany their pampered pets. But it is now possible to send them to a school where they can be taught to bark properly, to bow in greeting and farewell, to pick up a fan dropped by the mistress and present it to her gracefully, and to walk with proud and prancing steps.—New York Tribune.

M. de Plehve said in an interview the other day that Russia is going to encourage the Jews to emigrate. We were under the impression that Russia had already given the Jews a good deal of such encouragement.

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